



P.O. Box 175
Three Rivers, MI 49093
upcycledpets@gmail.com
www.upcycledpets.com

October 25, 2013

Dear Chair Hune and Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee:

Up-Cycled Pets believes that every animal deserves a loving and forever home. Our goal is to help the animals of St. Joseph County find that home and put an end to any past cruel and inhumane treatment they may have suffered. We place cats and dogs in safe foster homes until the best permanent homes can be found.

In recent years, neighboring Indiana has enacted some regulations for the monitoring and care of dogs in large-scale breeding facilities. That is certainly good news and we applaud that effort. But because St. Joseph County is located along the Indiana border, we are becoming increasingly concerned that some of those businesses may be considering moving up to Michigan, because we do not have such regulations in our state. We have already received complaints about dog breeding facilities operating without oversight, and our rescue has been called to assist in cases where breeders have dumped large quantities of their breeding dogs, or where breeders have relinquished dogs to rescuers because they don't want to provide care for them. This places a tremendous burden on St. Joseph County's already-overwhelmed shelter and rescue groups such as ours.

To help alleviate this situation and to prevent disreputable operations from Indiana and other Midwest states from moving into Michigan, we ask that you support SB 560 to require large-scale dog breeders to register with the MDARD, enact standards of care, prevent them from selling puppies less than 8 weeks of age, require vaccination, parasite treatment and a health certificate signed by a veterinarian, and require annual statistical reporting and daily record-keeping. Please keep in mind that SB 560 defines "large-scale commercial dog breeding kennels" as facilities housing more than 15 intact female adult dogs for breeding, so it would not affect small, responsible hobby breeders.

In addition, Up-Cycled Pets is in a county whose shelter only recently removed its gas chamber and transitioned to the more humane, safe, and cost-effective method of euthanasia by injection. So we ask for your support of SB 560 because it requires that all of Michigan's shelters, pet stores, and large-scale breeders who must euthanize animals do so humanely in accordance with state law and current AVMA guidelines (which no longer recommend the use of gas as a routine method of euthanizing shelter cats and dogs). While we are glad that our county has taken that step toward more humane euthanasia, all of Michigan's animal facilities should be required to follow the same standards of treatment for the pets in their care.

Thank you so much, and please don't hesitate to contact Up-Cycled Pets upcycledpets@gmail.com or (269) 273-1514 with any questions.

Sincerely,

The Up-Cycled Pets Board of Directors